

A Spiritual Encounter

Anime: Naruto

Characters: Naruto, Kiba, Sasuke, Yuureimaru (original creation)

Contains: Violence, A Crazy Mad Tickler, foot / chest / armpit / side tickling, Jutsu that should NOT be tried at home.

Author's Note: *As you notice, Yuureimaru isn't a Naruto character. I made him. If you want the japanese originals of all his techniques (which I thought of off-handily) I'll give them to you. Also, take note that some jutsu were used by people who don't know them. Dun bite my head off about it, it's called creativity ^^;*

As silent as a shinobi could be, Naruto crept down alleyways and over building tops, avoiding the crowds of people along the various main roads. Sitting down, he'd taken the scroll out again. Looking at the broken seal, marking the scroll as official from the Hokage, Naruto pondered its contents before opening it again.

It was short, almost a waste in Naruto's eyes. Excitement mixed with nervousness as he read the few lines written:

“Report to the Fifth Hokage. Don't let anyone know you're coming. Be prepared for a mission.”

Rolling the scroll back up, Naruto nodded and made his way to the Hokage's office. Thinking about it as he jumped the rooftops, Naruto almost screamed out in frustration. “A mission, a secret mission at that! This is my chance to show Old Lady Tsunade, Kakashi sensei, all of them!”

Getting in was harder than he originally expected. With several Jounin and Chuunin making their way in and out of the building, Naruto had to find a different way of entering. Scaling the walls of the main building seemed almost impossible, but it was the only way. Taking hold and exerting chakra to his feet and hands, Naruto began the climb along the back side of the building.

After several minutes of climbing, Naruto had made it to the top of the building. A quick look around eased his mind about more shinobi on the roof. Skilfully prying the grate off the air vents, Naruto slipped in and started the long crawl to Tsunade's office. Brushing away several cobwebs, Naruto more than once had to catch himself from coughing or sneezing, silently thinking to himself, “Man, doesn't anyone clean around here?”

Having finally made it to Tsunade's office, Naruto pushed the tile grate aside and looked around.

“You little brat! Took you long enough didn't it!?!”

In a daze of pure shock, Naruto fell from the ceiling and landed hard on his head. Rolling over, he rubbed the obvious bump on his skull. “What’s the bid idea!?!”

Returning to her seat, Tsunade turned to face him in a more official setting. “I could hear you coming for a while now. This mission requires a lot more stealth than that...”

Hearing her speak of the mission, Naruto stood quickly and started acting more serious. “What exactly is this mission? Are we going on another scavenger hunt for some poor village?”

Dashing up to stare him down, Tsunade placed a finger in Naruto’s face and gave him an evil glare. “Listen kid, those missions are what keep this place running!”

Standing on his toes to look her more in the eye, Naruto got red-faced and started screaming back. “Then have the new graduates do it! I should be off on more important missions like Neji and the others!!”

Taking a deep breath, Tsunade recomposed herself and nodded. “This mission is to be kept secret. I’ve already informed Kiba, he’ll be going with you for scouting purposes...”

Crossing his arms, Naruto turned away. “I knew it, another kid mission...”

Walking to the window, Tsunade gave the village of Konoha a somber look. “It’s not a kid mission. You should know...he’s outside Konoha...”

Turning to face her in defiance, Naruto waved his hand a little and started mocking her. “Who’s so important that...” Pausing, Naruto’s eyes opened a little wider as he slammed his hands down on her desk. “Orochimaru!?!”

Blowing the comment off, Tsunade shook her head. “There’s no way I’d have you go against him with just Kiba. No, it’s Sasuke...”

Nearly jumping out of his sandals with excitement, Naruto instead jumped up onto Tsunade’s desk. “What!?! Sasuke!?! Here!?!”

Tsunade turned sharply and landed a finger square in Naruto’s face, knocking him back into the wall slightly. “Keep your voice down. I already told you, this mission is top secret.”

Taking her seat again, Tsunade started reading over several papers. “If the others found out Sasuke was near, they’d panic. He’s under Orochimaru’s control, which makes him just as much, a face for disaster as that bastard himself...”

Rubbing his nose where Tsunade had poked, Naruto stood and made his way under the ceiling vent.

“For god sake, take the door!” Tsunade has made a shooping motion with her hand. “You look far more suspicious crawling through the vents...”

Outside the main wall of Konoha, Naruto had met up with Kiba and Akamaru. The two had been walking around as though they were simply out for pleasure. For a short distance, the two were walking down the main road, before Kiba took hold of Naruto's arm and plunged into the woods.

"H-Hey! Kiba, knock it off!" Naruto tried to break free from the grip as Kiba dove further into the wooded area.

Turning to look at Naruto slightly, Kiba shot him a worried expression, and then looked forward again. "Tsunade said several ANBU were in the area, to give us assistance if needed. We're to capture Sasuke and bring him back."

Grinning from ear to ear, Naruto let out a resounding scream. "Yeah!! That's what I'm talking about!!" Stopping in an extremely dark section of the woods, Kiba and Akamaru started searching for Sasuke's scent. "If he's close, we'll know, right Akamaru?" The nin-dog let out a sharp yelp before continuing his search. Picking up his scent, Kiba and Naruto made their way further into the woods, expertly jumping from tree to tree.

"Akamaru says he's close. Not a smart move on his account." Naruto thought about this for a second before stopping. "Wait, Kiba. What if all this is what he wants? What if he's simply luring us away from where he really is..."

Shocked at the seriousness of the comment, Kiba was taken back. "There's no way Sasuke could know we were out here. If I were you, I wouldn't think into things so much. It just doesn't suit you..."

Growling, the two got into a fistfight, with Akamaru sitting on the sidelines, watching.

Night started to set as the two were still wandering the woods. Akamaru was busy searching for Sasuke's scent, while Naruto and Kiba were still going at it.

"Look at this!! We've been searching for hours and still no sign of him! You call yourself a tracker!"

Tired from constantly focusing chakra to his nose to increase his sense of smell, Kiba sat down and let out a sigh. "Well if you're so smart, let's see you find him!" A smug smirk on his face, Naruto put up a fist to Kiba. "I'll show you, believe it! I'll find Sasuke, and I'll even do it your way!"

Getting down on all fours, Naruto started smelling around for any kind of scent. Smelling nothing but dirt, he wasn't about to give up so easily. Meanwhile, Kiba had fallen over laughing at the sight. Pointing at Naruto, he was reduced to tears. "That's too good! Haha, you actually think that'll work!?" Holding his sides, Kiba started in on a mixture of coughing and laughing at the mere sight.

Angry at the humiliation of defeat, on top of Kiba's mocking, Naruto sprung up and landed on Kiba. "You think that's funny! Come on! I'll give ya something to really laugh about!!"

Rolling over to try and push Naruto off, Kiba started struggling. “Hey, what’re you doing?! Get off!” In a blind fury, Naruto started digging his fingers into Kiba’s sides, the idea of reducing Kiba to tears enough to re-inflate his self esteem. “Hah, how do you like that?!”

His struggling increased, Kiba started pushing harder to get the hyperactive ninja off. “St-Stop! Na-hahaharuto! Get Off! Stahahahap!” His laughter confusing his animal counterpart, Akamaru simply sat and watched the two as if it were another fight.

Adding humiliation to his torture, Naruto started talking to Kiba like a child. “Aww, what’s wrong. Is Kiba ticklish?” Digging his fingers in harder to get past the fabric of Kiba’s jacket, Naruto had a devilish grin on his face.

While Naruto was busy torturing Kiba, Akamaru had sensed another person in the trees, jumping to attack, he was struck down by several Kunai knives. The sound of metal hitting the ground got Naruto’s attention, causing him to stop his onslaught.

“Pathetic. You two are nothing but armatures...” Above them, looking down in a very unimpressed way, Sasuke had his arms crossed and was holding an extra kunai.

Kiba, freed from his torture, took the opportunity to push Naruto off and stand. Pointing a clawed finger at Sasuke, Kiba shouted. “Sasuke! You traitor!” Bending down, Kiba picked Akamaru up and cradled him, the nin-dog having taken several serious strikes.

Naruto, still stunned at seeing Sasuke so informally, stood and was at a loss for words. “Sa-Sasuke?”

Pushing his way off the main trunk of the tree, Sasuke stood on the branch and shrugged. “How rude of me. Naruto, Kiba, this is Yuureimaru...” Beside Sasuke, a bright light shone, then breaking into several pieces, eventually formed the figure of a ninja covered in long, black silk. “He’s my travelling bodyguard. He can be weird sometimes, but still effective...”

In a flash of light almost as bright as what created him, Yuureimaru fell from the trees and kicked Kiba to the ground. Sasuke, still in the trees, was looking down at Naruto. “You should of let things be...you shouldn’t of come looking...”

Naruto, still dumbfound for words, only broke his stare at Sasuke when he heard Kiba cry out. Turning, he saw that Yuureimaru had in fact pinned Kiba to the tree with one arm. Looking back to Sasuke, Naruto shouted. “Sasuke!”

Dropping from the tree, Sasuke walked slowly to stand next to Yuureimaru. “Both of them need to be held. I don’t want interference...”

The command from his master given, Yuureimaru tossed Kiba into Naruto, and then started performing several hand signs. The speed at which the eerie ninja was going took Kiba and Naruto by surprise. Not wanting to know what jutsu he was about to use, Naruto threw one of his kunai knives at him and watched in horror as the knife simply passed through him. Kiba on the other hand, was preparing to take on Sasuke, when Yuureimaru looked up and spoke a few quiet words. “Summoning Technique...” placing his hands to the ground, Yuureimaru spoke again in his quiet voice. “...Wall of Subjugation.”

Jumping away to avoid his summon, Kiba and Naruto were both startled when several undead hands sprawled from the ground and took hold of them, stretching far beyond what a normal human hand could. In a wave of dark chakra, the two were slowly molded to the wall of undead skeletal bones, their waists, arms and legs held by several skeletal hands.

In his smug victory, Sasuke walked slowly up to the two, followed by Yuureimaru. Tapping the bone prison, Sasuke turned to face Yuureimaru. "Bones...infused with chakra. That's quite clever..." His approach taking him to Naruto, Sasuke lifted the ninja's jacket and shirt to reveal the Seal that kept the Kyuubi inside Naruto. Holding his hand back, Naruto instantly recognized the technique.

"Five Elements Seal!" Driving his fingers into Naruto's stomach, Sasuke allowed the highly-ranked seal to take effect, cutting off the Kyuubi's chakra. Naruto, the hit from the impact causing him to become breathless, simply stared at Sasuke in disbelief. A technique like that required years of training. He'd only been gone for a while, and already he knew it.

Kiba, in almost a comical fashion, was screaming and yelling at Sasuke, his words falling on deaf ears as Sasuke turned and made his way back to Yuureimaru. "If you don't mind, I'd like to make them suffer...alone." Yuureimaru, his face covered by what looked like a cracked ANBU mask, simply looked away, then disappeared in a shimmer of darkness.

For some time, the only noise that was made was Kiba screaming at Sasuke. Naruto simply slumped over, looking at his feet which hung a few inches from the ground. His gaze wandering every so often up to Sasuke, then back to the ground. "Sasuke, why are you doing this? Why are you here...now?"

Turning to face them, Sasuke looked around as if trying to find someone, then walked over to the two. Leaning on the bone encasement, he sighed. "This wasn't my idea. I had no intention of returning, but he wanted me to come and check out Konoha. I didn't expect you two would come looking."

Still in his tantrum from earlier, Kiba kept on shouting, "What do you mean you didn't expect it?! You left and came back!"

His eyes shifted in a sly manner, Sasuke gazed to Kiba. "You were the ones who were stupid enough to get caught." Stretching, Sasuke took a seat. "Yuureimaru is still watching, which means I'm gonna have to do something soon..." Thinking, Sasuke got an idea, and looked up to the two. "I have an idea, but you won't like it."

Naruto wasn't looking at Sasuke, but instead off to the side as much as he could. His attention was only drawn back down when he felt one of his sandals come off.

"H-Hey, Sasuke. What's the big idea?" Sasuke was about to take off the other one when he looked up. "I told Yuureimaru I had to make you suffer. Those were my orders. I never said anything about killing you though..." Taking off the other sandal, Sasuke switched sides and worked on Kiba's sandals, who was already getting the idea and trying to kick at Sasuke.

“Don’t you dare! Get away from me you traitor!” Sasuke ripped off Kiba’s other sandal, then stood and took out a kunai. “It’s either that, or this. Take your pick dog boy...” With an expert flick, Sasuke tore open Kiba’s jacket, the material ripping easily against the sharp metal. Turning to face Naruto, Sasuke did the same to his jacket.

Depressed beyond belief, Naruto looked away and sighed. “Do what you have to. I give up.” He was about to remain silent, when he felt Sasuke’s fingers slowly tickle his sides.

Knowing full well he would soon start laughing, even in this serious moment, Naruto tried to contain the laughter. Sasuke, knowing Naruto’s arrogance, increased the speed at which he tickled.

“S-Sasuke! St-Stop! Hehe, stop! This isn’t funny!” Naruto, unable to contain his laughter, started giggling slightly and squirming away. At the same time Kiba was horrified at the sight.

Nodding in a firm manner, Sasuke stood back and looked over the situation. Thinking things over, his gaze went between Naruto and Kiba’s feet, then to their semi-bared chests.

“Yuureimaru...” In a flicker of bright light, the eerie ninja appeared at Sasuke’s side like before. “Yuureimaru, you’ve seen what kind of torture I prefer, correct?” The ninja, using no words, simply nodded.

Smirking with a slight mischief, Sasuke walked away slowly. “You may have your fill. When they pass out, bring them with you.”

Almost as mysterious as he’d appeared, Sasuke walked away into the shadows of the forest, leaving Naruto, Kiba and Yuureimaru. Slowly the creepy ninja walked up to the two, his size much taller than Sasuke’s. Placing a hand on Kiba’s head, Yuureimaru freaked both of them out when he started to chuckle very quiet.

His hand slowly moving to the bone wall, Yuureimaru spoke again, humor in his voice. “Wall of Torture...”

Like before, several skeletal hands appeared and at first seemed to just stick out. After a slight manipulation by their master however, the hands were positioned at both Kiba and Naruto’s weakest points.

Two hands at their feet, one for each foot, three at their chest and one by each armpit.

With almost a gleeful gesture, Yuureimaru started moving each hand with slight strokes of his fingers.

The torture, for what it was worth, started light. The tips of the skeletal hands grazed both boy’s stomachs, making light scratches and tracing small circles. Neither cried out in hysterics until Yuureimaru commanded the skeletal hands at their armpits. With nothing but bone, each finger slid along their sides and pits with ease, teasing the nerves with careful precision.

Their light torture went on for a while, until Yuureimaru sat down and sighed. His voice still quiet, he sounded disappointed. “No cries at all to stop yet. Must do more...”

Like an expert puppeteer, he commanded the hands at the boy's feet to start moving. In even its lightest phase, this caused both to react with regretful giggling. Their toes clenched, the skeletal fingers simply went up and down their souls.

His mood unchanged, Yuureimaru sighed again. "Not very good. Must do more..." Raising a hand to his mask, the eerie ninja, who remained hidden by cloth and wood, showed the two his real face.

Unlike Sasuke, who was calm the entire time, Yuureimaru looked thrilled at the chance. His eyes were chill blue, his face unmarred by any detail. Standing, he chuckled softly, his eyes craving the sound of torture. "More. More! MORE!" In a frenzy, like a piano player Yuureimaru started waving his fingers around, commanding the skeletal hands faster and with less carefulness.

Both Naruto and Kiba screamed out at this, their will breaking instantly.

"No! STAAAAHAHAHAP! Don't TIHIAHAHA" Naruto trashed about, his fingers and toes tightening and loosening. The hands that held him seemed to take joy in tickling around the seal markings, while those at his feet tried to pry his toes open to slip their way between each.

Kiba, who had already revealed his weakness, was trying to bite at the hands while he laughed. "ENOHAHAHAHAPH! NAHAHAHAHARUTO! Naruto! THIEHEHEHAHA! This is ALLHAHAHA your FAHAHAHAULT!"

Clapping his hands together with delight, Yuureimaru halted his skeletal hands and looked over both. "Good. Very Good. Now...who is more ticklish?"

In a sadistic manner, he commanded each hand to work individually and solo, gauging their reactions. As if researching. His face would go from serious to almost manic at the reactions.

"Yuureimahahaha! Yuureimaru! You baahahahaHAHA! Knock it off!" His will renewed, Naruto attempted not to laugh at the strange torment. Kiba, on the other hand, had broken down into silent laughter, giving up on biting the hands that tickled him; he simply shook his head back and forth, laughing without sound.

Grinning from ear to ear, Yuureimaru walked up and placed one of his own hands under Naruto's chin and giggled. "You win, which means..." Pulling his hand away, Yuureimaru continued to chuckle, matching Kiba's silent laughter. "...you get to move on." Waving a hand in dismissal, the skeletal wall broke away, leaving Kiba on the side lines.

"N-N-No! Nahaharuto!" His plea engulfed in his ticklish plight, Kiba could do nothing but let tears run down his face from laughing so hard. The hands, their commands set, lessened in intensity and simply kept up a light torture.

On Naruto's half of the wall though, Yuureimaru was preparing yet another justu. His hands shaping quickly, he finished and said in a joyful manner, "Ghost Hands Technique!" To both Naruto, and the laughing Kiba's shock, Yuureimaru's hands faded away, leaving the empty sleeves hanging in the air.

The tickling skeletal hands on Naruto's half of the wall dropping still, they were soon replaced with real, flesh and bone hands, each popping out of the bone as though part of it.

Naruto knew, off the bat, something about the hands was different. They were too normal to be special, which meant they would do something far more worse.

"Wh-What is this?" Naruto struggled anew as the first hand made contact with his sole. The feeling was something he couldn't explain in words, like a thousand feather tips touching his sensitive soles all at once. Without words to scream, the ninja simply yelped.

"HahahaHAHAHAHA! NO! NO! HeheheHAHAHA! Stop! HahaHAHAHAHahaha! Don't! HAHAHAHA It TiheheHEHAHAHA! Tickles ToohahAHAHA! TOO MUCH!!!" As if waiting by cue, each of the other hands started in, more than a dozen getting in on the action. Over the tops of his toes, his soles, his navel, his sides. Each of the torturous hands found a place and stayed there, their unnatural touch driving the ninja insane. Reduced to a state further than Kiba, Naruto couldn't even laugh, he simply sat there and let tears form at his eyes.

"Yes...YES! Perfect!" Yuureimaru was about to move closer, when he paused; Frozen, with a look of disappointment on his face. "So soon...?"

From behind, two ANBU members stood, one holding several sacred charms, the other holding Akamaru. The one with the spiritual charms made a motion, and as if he were made of smoke, Yuureimaru was dissolved, his Wall of Torture fading with him.

With the held of the ANBU members, Naruto and Kiba made their way back to report their failure to Tsunade, who was slightly disappointed. Her sympathy came with their lecture though, as she educated them on Orochimaru's earlier experiments, which included the summoning of souls for knowledge. With that, she sent them on their way, both humiliated at their defeat.

As the sun rose over the forest of Konoha, Tsunade looked out the window of her office, and saw in the distance a slight glimmer of light, opposite of the sun. A smirk on her face, she heard a chuckle on the wind, and then, nothing but silence.